

HONORING MR. CLIFTON JAMES
COWARD, JR.

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, the Vietnam War is widely regarded as one of the most brutal conflicts our young service members have faced to this day. With such brutal conditions abroad and dwindling support within the United States, the Vietnam War left an indelible mark on our nation, and most importantly, on the people who served. One man to experience these effects was Mr. Clifton James Coward, Jr., of Washington, North Carolina. I rise today to honor him.

Known as C.J. to his friends, Clifton was a happy and outgoing person when he was younger. Unfortunately, by the time he returned home following his tour in Vietnam, his world was flipped upside down.

C.J. served in the military from 1967 to 1970, completing one tour in Vietnam. As a Specialist 4th Class in the U.S. Army, he was a part of a New Equipment Training (NET) team and was the operator/gunny attached to a Sheridan M551 tank. One of the hardships the group faced while fighting was that they traveled so quickly throughout the country. Letters that their loved ones sent often wouldn't arrive until after they had moved on to a new location.

Unfortunately, by the time his tour was over and C.J. was discharged, he had developed anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. This greatly exacerbated other health problems, which arose later in his life. Having married Lola Woolard after returning to the states, C.J. dealt with emphysema and episodes of anxiety that led to his wife driving him around into the early hours of the morning to help calm him down. Even throughout the hardships, the couple was happily married for 48 years. The two of them have lived in my district for 45 of those 48 years. C.J. was a proud father to Lynn and Kylie Coward Carter and a grandfather to Lucas and Lily Carter. After his service, he continued supporting his family by preparing bread trays, that way he could avoid the stress of your typical 9 to 5 job and he was able to work at his own pace.

The effects of Vietnam are still felt by many, just like Clifton. Despite never returning to the same happy, outgoing young man he once was, he always tried to keep a smile on his face and was a dear friend who will be missed by many. May God continue to uplift his family.

IN MEMORY OF MR. FRANKLIN
DEAN SMITH

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of the life of Mr. Franklin Dean "Frank" Smith, who passed away Wednesday, April 11, 2018. Frank was a lifelong patriot who bravely and proudly served our great Nation as a member of the United States Navy. Not only did he love our

country, he was a lover of God, his family, and his community, and he worked his entire life to give back to that which he loved.

Before his service, Frank was born and raised in Cherokee, Iowa. He made his way to the East Coast when he received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Following his graduation in 1956, he attended the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Georgia before serving on the destroyer USS *Hunt*, as well as in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Frank later returned to his alma mater to spend two tours teaching math to the next generation of naval officers. He served at the Atomic Energy Commission under Admiral Hyman Rickover, the "father of the nuclear Navy" at Westinghouse's Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory; as the supply officer on the USS *Maury*; and as well as at the U.S. Naval Supply Center. His last official duty was with the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon.

Frank led an accomplished life, also receiving his Master's Degree from Harvard Business School and serving as a long-time member, and even President, of the Fairfax Hunt Club. Additionally, Frank was a founding member of the "Morattico Waterfront Museum," which is the cultural center of activity in Morattico, the small town where he lived during the latter years of his life.

Frank is survived by his wife, Carol; children, Scott, Elizabeth, and Alex; stepchildren, Edward, Genie, Vicky, and James; as well as his sixteen grandchildren. His dedication to our Nation and his local community was second to none, and he will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and recognizing Mr. Franklin Dean Smith for his life of service to our Commonwealth, Nation, and the United States Navy.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF TYLER TRENT, A PURDUE
BOILERMAKER

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Tyler Trent, a twenty-year-old Purdue University student journalist and super fan who devoted his all too short life to inspiring and helping others. He recently lost his battle with cancer as 2019 began. Tyler Trent is now a name known in households across the nation for his love of Purdue football and his inspiring passion and energy as a fan. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Tyler's significant impact on Purdue University, the State of Indiana, and our nation.

Tyler was a life-long Hoosier, a native of Carmel, Indiana and son of Tony and Kelly Trent. The oldest of three brothers, he was always described as a special kid who "stood out" his entire life. This maturity would follow Tyler throughout his life as he faced three consecutive battles with osteosarcoma or bone cancer, starting at the age of 15. Determined not to let cancer impede his dreams of attending Purdue University, Tyler graduated from high school and scored in the 1500s on

the SAT. His hard work and dedication to success earned him the Presidential Scholarship to Purdue in early 2017. This scholarship is awarded to individuals with high academic achievement, leadership, and service in their school or community. Determined to not let cancer dictate his life, Tyler began college at Purdue University in the fall of 2017. Unwavering in his dream to be a Boilermaker and become a national sports writer, Tyler attended class during the week and returned home on the weekends for cancer treatment at Riley Hospital for Children.

His remarkable spirit was evidenced by his unwillingness to let cancer impede his passion for Boilermaker football, attending Purdue football games and cheering on his favorite team whenever possible. His passion was quickly recognized by Coach Jeff Brohm, who admired his fight and inability to quit. When asked about his future, Tyler stated, "The immediate future in my mind . . . Purdue beats number two-ranked Ohio State." And they did. He also earned the position of honorary team captain. The team often credited Tyler for their wins, particularly the Old Oaken Bucket game. Ever committed to his Boilermakers, he attended his last game while in hospice care.

Beyond Tyler's love of sports was a love of doing good. Even as he battled osteosarcoma, Tyler thought of others, forming an organization called Teens With a Cause where he raised over \$100,000 for pediatric cancer research. The organization recruited kids to do service projects for families affected by cancer, such as raking leaves, shoveling snow and running errands. Tyler also volunteered with the Purdue Dance Marathon, which raises money for Riley Hospital for Children and the Purdue Center for Cancer Research. Committed to advancing research and curing his cancer, Tyler donated the tissue from his tumor for research, one of the first osteosarcoma patients at Riley to do so. When speaking about tissue donation, Tyler said "I feel like I'm getting to view my legacy come to life. I'm incredibly thankful that I'm getting to see the impact tissue donation is having. Most people don't get to live long enough to see their impact but I'm getting blessed with that."

A true testament to his outstanding character, Tyler was the subject of ESPN features and received the Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest Hoosier honor bestowed by Governor Holcomb. In December 2018, he was the recipient of Disney's Wide World of Sports Spirit Award, given annually to college football's most inspirational individual or team. When Tyler received that award, he said, "At the end of the day, there's always a light at the end of the tunnel and as long as you rely on your faith, things will work out." Finally, Tyler wrote an autobiography entitled *The Upset: Life, Sports, Death, and the Legacy in Between, The 'TYLER STRONG' Story*, with a portion of every purchase being donated to cancer research in Trent's name.

It is with that optimistic and positive outlook on life that Tyler was able to inspire the nation. He has united Americans far and wide to be Boilermakers. Tyler will be forever missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and the entire Purdue community. I hope we can all live every day as he did: #Tyler Strong. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Tyler's parents, Tony and Kelly Trent, his two brothers,